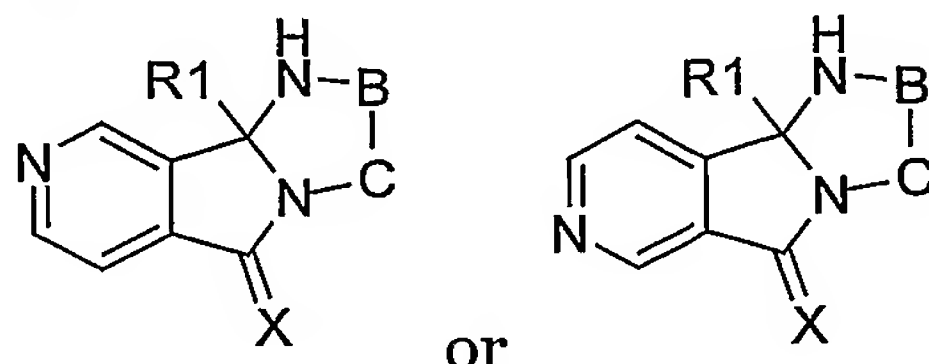


AMENDED CLAIMS

[received by the International Bureau on 10 May 2005 (10.05.05);
new claims 67-82 added; remaining claims unchanged (3 pages)]

67. A compound of formula



and salts thereof, wherein

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the pyridyl ring is optionally substituted;

B-C is an optionally substituted linker of the formula $-\text{CH}_2-(\text{CH}_2)_z-$, where z is 1-4;

- 10 R_1 is selected from C_{1-12} alkyl, C_{2-12} alkenyl, C_{2-12} alkynyl, $-(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{C}_{3-7}$ cycloalkyl, $-(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{C}_{4-7}$ cycloalkenyl, $-(\text{CH}_2)_n$ aryl, $-(\text{CH}_2)_n$ aryl C_{1-12} alkyl, $-(\text{CH}_2)_n$ aryl C_{2-12} alkenyl, $-(\text{CH}_2)_n$ aryl C_{2-12} alkynyl, and $-(\text{CH}_2)_n$ heterocyclyl; n is 0-6 and the alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, aryl and heterocyclyl groups are optionally substituted;
- 15 X is selected from O, S and NR_6 , where R_6 is independently selected from hydrogen, lower alkyl, hydroxy and lower alkoxy;

with the proviso that when -B-C- is $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}(\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2)-$, R_1 is not 3- CH_3 , 4- $\text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{NHC}(\text{O})\text{CH}_2\text{O}$ -phenyl-.

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68. The compound as defined in claims 67 and salts thereof, wherein the pyridyl ring is optionally substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from halo, $-\text{NH}_2$, $-\text{NO}_2$, C_{1-6} alkyl, aryl and heterocyclyl, the aryl and heterocyclyl groups optionally substituted with halo, C_{1-6} alkyl or halo substituted C_{1-6} alkyl, and the ring nitrogen of the pyridyl ring may optionally be an N-oxide.
- 25

69. The compound as defined in claim 67 and salts thereof, wherein the pyridyl ring is optionally substituted with a substituent selected from halo, alkyl, C_6H_5- , $\text{CH}_3-\text{C}_6\text{H}_4-$, $\text{CF}_3-\text{C}_6\text{H}_4-$, pyridyl and NO_2 , and the ring nitrogen of the pyridyl ring may optionally be an N-oxide.
- 30

70. The compound as defined claim 67 and salts thereof, wherein the pyridyl ring is not substituted.

- 35 71. The compound as defined in claim 67 and salts thereof, wherein the linker -B-C- is as defined in any one of claims 21 to 23.

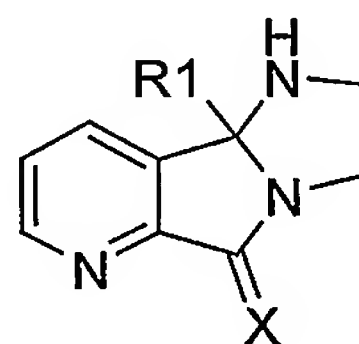
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72. The compound as defined in claim 67 and salts thereof, wherein X is oxygen or sulphur.

5 73. The compound as defined in claim 67 and salts thereof, wherein X is oxygen.

74. The compound as defined in claim 67 and salts thereof, wherein R₁ is as defined in any one of claims 25 to 29.

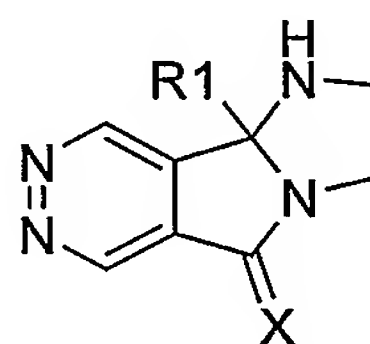
10 75. A compound of formula



and salts thereof, wherein the pyridyl ring is optionally substituted and R₁ and X are as defined in Claim 67, with the proviso that R₁ is not 4-chlorophenyl.

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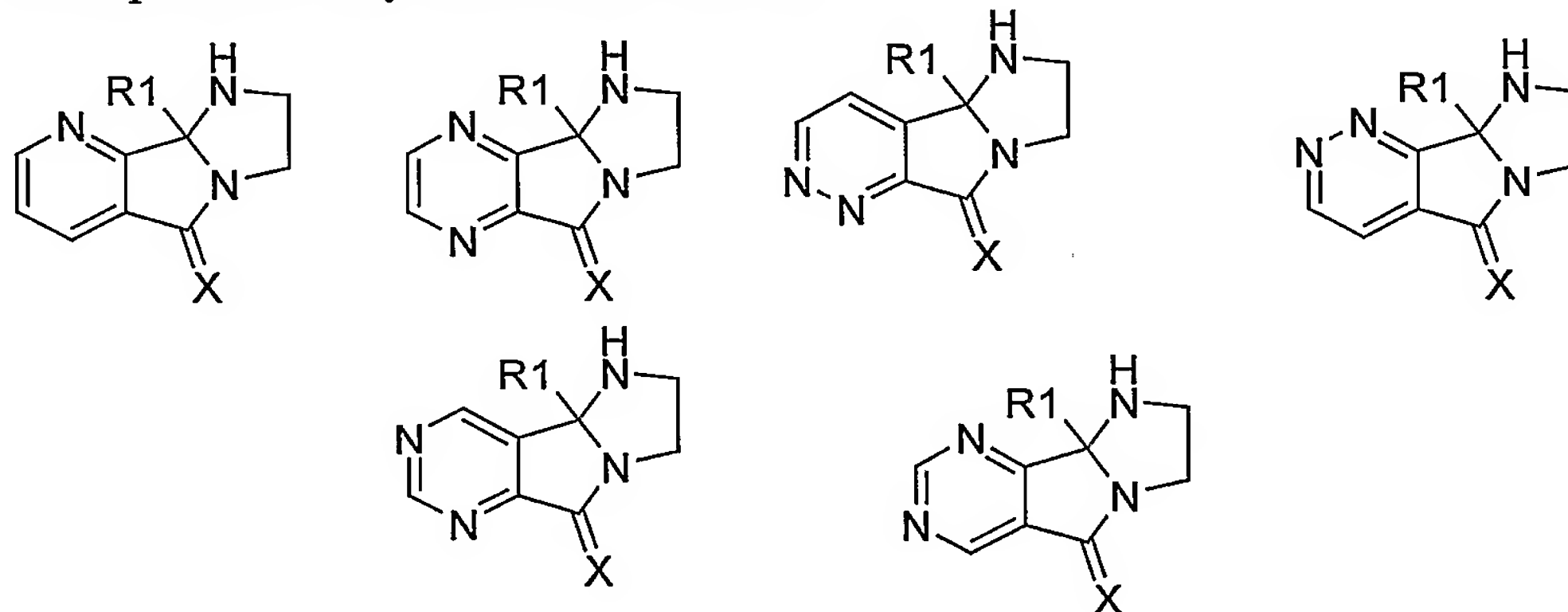
76. A compound of the formula



and salts thereof, wherein the fused pyridazinyl ring is optionally substituted and R₁ and X are as defined in Claim 67, with the proviso that R₁ is not phenyl, 4-chlorophenyl or 4-methoxyphenyl.

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77. A compound of any one of the formula

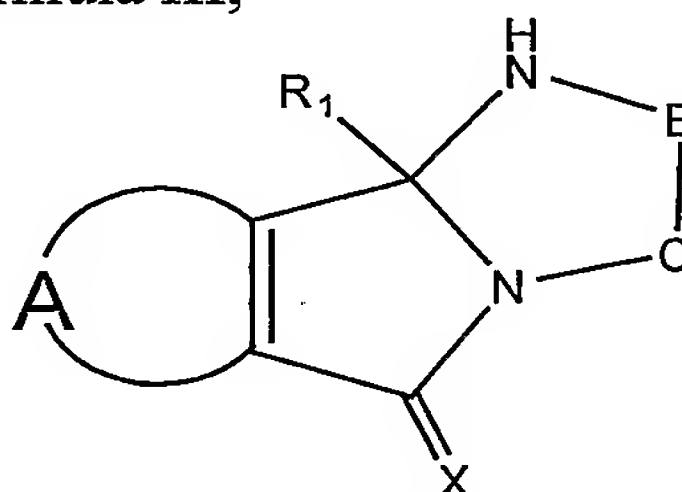


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and salts thereof, wherein the fused pyridyl, pyrazinyl, pyridazinyl or pyrimidinyl ring is optionally substituted and R_1 and X are as defined in Claim 67.

- 5 78. Use of a compound of formula III,



Formula III

and salts thereof, wherein R_1 , ring A, -B-C- and X are as defined in claim 38, as an intermediate for the production of a compound of formula I as defined in claim 38.

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79. A method of separating the enantiomers of a compound of formula III by forming diastereomeric salts of the compounds using an enantiomerically enriched chiral hydrogen phosphate.

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80. A method of separating the enantiomers of a compound as defined in claim 67 by forming diastereomeric salts of the compound using an enantiomerically enriched chiral hydrogen phosphate.

81. The compound as defined in claim 38 in a substantially pure optically active form.

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82. The compound as defined in claim 67, 75, 76 or 77 in a substantially pure optically active form.